



CMD 26-H105.3

Date: 2026-08-31

**Written Submission from
Cameco Corporation**

**Mémoire de
Cameco Corporation**

In the matter of

À l'égard d'

Orano Canada Inc.

Orano Canada Inc.

Application to renew the McClean Lake
Operating Licence for 2-year term

Demande pour le renouvellement du
permis d'exploitation de McClean Lake
pour une période de deux ans

**Hearing in writing based on written
submissions**

**Audience par écrit fondée sur des
mémoires**

September 2026

Septembre 2026

ORIGINAL

CNSC COMMISSION MEMBER DOCUMENT (CMD)

CMD: 16-H8.1

Date Submitted: 31 August 2026

Reference CMDs: N/A

Cameco Corporation

Hearing in Writing

Scheduled for:
September 2026

Request for a Licensing Decision:

Regarding:

Orano Canada Inc.'s McClean Lake Operation Licence Renewal Hearing in Writing

Submitted by:

Cameco Corporation

Please accept this correspondence as Cameco Corporation's (Cameco) written intervention in support of Orano Canada Inc.'s (Orano) request to renew the uranium mine and mill licence for the McClean Lake Operation for a two-year term.

Background

By way of background, Cameco is one of the largest global providers of uranium fuel needed to power a secure energy future. We have controlling ownership of the world's largest high-grade uranium reserves and mining operations in northern Saskatchewan.

We are also a leading supplier of uranium refining, conversion and fuel manufacturing services, with facilities located in Ontario. Utilities around the world rely on Cameco's nuclear fuel products to generate carbon-free and affordable baseload nuclear power that is critical to support a net-zero economy by 2050.

Cameco is also recognized as Canada's largest industrial employer of Indigenous people. More than half of the workforce at Cameco's northern Saskatchewan operations are of First Nation or Métis heritage. In 2025, Cameco procured approximately \$292 million in northern services and in 2026 surpassed \$5 billion in procurement from northern and Indigenous-owned businesses since 2004.

The nuclear sector has been recognized as an integral component of the Canadian economy as it prepares to significantly expand the role of carbon emissions-free power by 2050. As nuclear new build projects are beginning or are under consideration in Canada, the carbon emissions reduction, economic, job creation and energy security benefits of nuclear projects are difficult to ignore.

Competent and Experienced Operator

Orano's McClean Lake mill has processed all uranium ore produced by Cameco's Cigar Lake mine since production began in 2014. Orano is also a joint venture partner in the Cigar Lake Operation and the two companies have worked together closely for nearly 40 years to develop the mine, prepare the mill to process the ore and effectively manage safety and environmental aspects of the two operations while engaging local Indigenous Nations and communities.

Ore from the Cigar Lake Operation is transported approximately 70 kilometres to Orano's McClean Lake facility for milling. Centralizing ore processing at an existing regional mill offers both environmental and economic advantages by maximizing the use of established infrastructure, including processing and tailings management facilities. This approach reduces the need for duplicate facilities and minimizes the overall environmental footprint associated with uranium production in northern Saskatchewan.

Through our close collaboration with Orano, Cameco has a well-informed view of Orano's competence as an experienced operator in northern Saskatchewan. Orano has a mature management system in place that allows Orano to meet regulatory requirements and make the necessary provisions for maintaining the health and safety of workers and the public as well as protecting the environment. Based on this insight, Cameco fully supports Orano's requested licence renewal.

Engagement

To support workforce and business development, community investment, community engagement and environmental stewardship, Cameco and Orano have negotiated and signed collaboration agreements (CAs) with northern Saskatchewan communities and Indigenous nations. These agreements established a structured approach to engagement through the Athabasca Joint Engagement and Environmental Subcommittee (AJES), English River First Nation Joint Implementation Engagement and Environmental Subcommittee (JIEES) and the Pinehouse Joint Implementation Engagement Subcommittee (JIES). Comprised of representatives from northern communities and industry, the subcommittees meet regularly throughout the year to facilitate open dialogue and information sharing related to mining activities, from exploration and operation through to decommissioning.

The subcommittees provide a regular forum for community and industry representatives to identify community priorities, discuss proposed projects and regulatory initiatives, and share information on environmental performance, safety, and operational activities within Indigenous traditional territories. This ongoing process helps guide engagement efforts and support practical discussion on matters of mutual interest.

The Ya'Thi Néné CA also led to the creation of the Ya'Thi Néné Lands and Resource Office, which provides technical and administrative support to the AJES. The Office's Manager of Environment participates as a member of the subcommittee, helping to strengthen communication and coordination among participants.

In addition, Cameco and Orano maintain a local presence in northern communities through satellite offices located in Fond du Lac, Black Lake and Hatchet Lake. These offices are staffed by community members who help implement key provisions of the CA, support ongoing engagement activities, communicate training and employment opportunities and serve as a direct point of contact between residents and industry.

Overall, Cameco's approach has been to support engagement that is local, structured and ongoing, rather than relying solely on project-specific engagement. Cameco and Orano have worked with northern communities and Indigenous nations through standing forums, local offices and community-based processes that allow concerns, priorities and information to be discussed throughout the life of the operations.

Environmental Protection

Cameco and Orano continue to support collaborative environmental monitoring initiatives with northern communities. One key initiative is the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP), established in 2011 to provide an independent framework for assessing potential environmental effects associated with uranium mining and milling activities in the Athabasca Basin. The program is jointly funded by Cameco, Orano, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and the Government of Saskatchewan.

A central component of EARMP is its community-based sampling program, through which local residents collect traditional foods such as fish, game and berries for analysis. The program is administered by Canada North Environmental Services Limited Partnership (CanNorth), a wholly Indigenous-owned organization, which compiles and publishes annual monitoring reports. Results from the program have consistently demonstrated that traditional country foods remain safe to harvest and consume.

In addition, under the community engagement and environmental stewardship commitments of the Ya'Thi Néné CA, Cameco and Orano jointly established the Community Based Environmental Monitoring Program (CBEMP). This initiative builds on environmental monitoring work previously undertaken through the Athabasca Working Group (AWG) program, which began in 2000.

The CBEMP is designed to better understand traditional food use by northern residents and confirm that these foods continue to be safe for consumption. Community members contribute directly through interviews and engagement activities that gather information on harvesting practices, including the types, quantities and locations of traditional foods collected. Consistent with EARMP findings, CBEMP results continue to indicate that traditional food harvesting and consumption remain important to the health and well-being of residents living near the McClean Lake and Cigar Lake operations.

Conclusions

Cameco considers Orano to be a capable and experienced operator of the McClean Lake mill. Cameco is confident that the necessary management systems, programs, and controls are in place to protect the environment and the health and safety of workers and the public and fully supports the requested licence renewal.
